

FIRST 100 DAYS OF BUSH
ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REHBERG). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for holding forth for an hour on what I think is a very important discussion. I think it is also important as we debate this issue that we clarify the reason why we rise to the floor, Mr. Speaker, for some might think that it is clearly to make a very bland or a very superficial analysis of 100 days of an administration.

Might I say as a Member of the United States Congress, I am willing to look at our 100 days as well because frankly what I am concerned about is the future of this Nation, the good future of the Nation, the improved quality of life. As I look to the 100 days, what I say to the American people is we can analyze 100 days because we have certain documents and certain actions that we can determine whether or not there is a vision for the future of this Nation or whether in fact we are going backward.

What I would say to the administration is of course there are analyses that suggest that it has been an okay 100 days, it has been a good 100 days, there is nothing that has been disturbed in the 100 days. That may be the case, but the question is who have we helped, what vision have we set forward in order to improve the quality of life of so many Americans? What have we done to be bold in our leadership?

This is why, Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor of the House and cite several aspects of concern that I have. I have not seen the bold leadership that is necessary. When we left the last Congress, the 106th Congress, we knew that we had a problem with uninsured children in America. We know that in the last Congress and in the Congress before, we put aside \$24 billion to ensure that children around the Nation could be insured. Yet that has not been fulfilled. And so it would be important that a bold vision for America be a commitment to insure every uninsured child. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that that surpasses any need to give a \$1.6 trillion tax cut on a surplus that is unsteady.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, we had bipartisan support on smaller class sizes for our Nation's schools. Not only smaller class sizes but to rebuild our crumbling schools. Not in someone's district but in America, whether it is rural, suburban or whether or not it is an urban area. There is not one of us who can go to our districts that cannot find a 50-year-old school, a 60-year-old school. Certainly there is great history and many of the old graduates are glad

that their building is still standing, but, Mr. Speaker, this is a circumstance where windows have to be opened, where bathrooms are not working, where stairwells are crumbling and our children are going to these schools. Bold leadership, Mr. Speaker, would have meant that in the 100 days of the administration that we are assessing and in this Congress we would have already brought to the floor of the House legislation to rebuild America's schools, collaborating with our local jurisdictions, talking about smaller class sizes.

As a member of the Committee on Science, let me say that I have spent some 6 years dealing with technology, research and development. My colleague from New Mexico spoke about Los Alamos. I went to Los Alamos and visited and saw the needs there. They have hardworking professionals but I would tell you, Mr. Speaker, we need resources in the Nation's labs. We need to rebuild them. We need to ensure that they are safe. And can you believe that we in the Committee on Science have oversight over a proposed budget by the administration that cuts this kind of research and development. In fact, what we are finding out is that there is more money for defense research and less money for civilian research. That means that NASA, the Department of Energy, NOAA, all of these entities that deal with the quality of life of Americans, improving the quality of life of Americans, helping to clean up nuclear waste, are now being proposed to be cut. That is not bold leadership. It falls on the backs of this Congress and it falls on the back of the administration.

Let me just quickly say, Mr. Speaker, why I am concerned. Both bodies, if you will, both segments have not functioned with the majority in the Senate and in the House that are Republican and this administration. One of the first things we did that now is being muffled over, if you will, in the 100 days is after 10 long years of work, we thought it was important to repeal the ergonomics work safety rule which was helping Americans with skeletal injuries because Workmen's Compensation did not pay. The administration thought that that was a big victory to repeal that long, hard work, starting under Secretary Dole of the Department of Labor and now we are repealing that.

Let me close by saying to you arsenic in the water, lowering emissions, lack of dollars for affordable housing and homelessness. Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we will strike a vision for the American people, come together with some leadership, and respond to what everyday, average Americans need in the 21st century.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, we have come to the floor today to offer a critique of the President's first 100 days in office. I think it is only fair that before we offer some of our valid criticisms, that we recognize where praise is due. I think before you give a new person on the job a critique, you always start with something positive. I want to start with something positive for the President. President Bush's FEMA director, Joe Albaugh, has done a good job responding to the Seattle earthquake, Mr. Speaker. We had this earthquake out in Seattle. He sent Mr. Albaugh out there and they have done a crackerjack job responding to my constituents' problems and we have appreciated it out there in Puget Sound country.

But, Mr. Speaker, there has been another earthquake of longer ramifications in my State and that is the earthquake of these incredibly high energy prices, electrical rates that are going up 30, 50, 100 percent, people who are charging wholesale electrical rates five, 10, 20 times higher than were just charged last year. Wholesale electrical generators, many of whom happen to be from the President's home State, who were charging \$20 a megawatt-hour last year are now charging \$250, \$500 a megawatt-hour, 10 to 20 times what they charged last year.

Mr. Speaker, you can imagine what that is doing to the economy of my State. We have had 400 people laid off from a pulp and paper mill that has shut down. We have got small business owners that are curtailing hours. We have got the prospect of 40,000 jobs lost as a result of these incredible price hikes.

What has this President offered the people of the West Coast, Washington, Oregon and California, in the face of this crisis? Nothing. We have come to this President and offered meaningful price mitigation legislation. We have asked him to urge FERC to ask for a meeting in the next hour or so to potentially consider a response to do something about these incredibly obscene prices that are not justified by cost, not justified by new generating capability but are only occurring due to folks who are gaming the system.

What has he said? "Let them eat cake." He said this is just a California problem. It is a Marie Antoinette energy policy and my constituents are suffering because of it. We are continuing to urge this President to give up this sort of mantra that this is just a California problem. California is still attached to the rest of the country. The earthquake has not caused it to be separated. My constituents in the